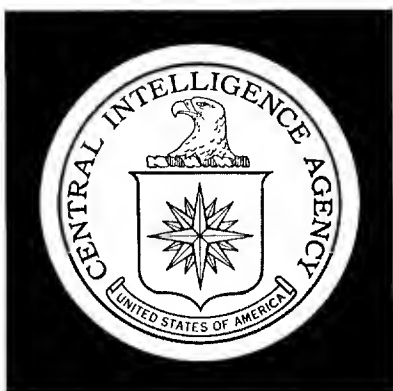


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Cambodia: The 12-nation Djakarta conference on Cambodia concluded yesterday with a call for a broader international gathering at a future date.

The communiqué designated the foreign ministers of Japan, Malaysia, and Indonesia to begin "urgent consultations" toward the convening of such a conference along lines suggested by the UN Secretary General and others. The three foreign ministers are to approach the participants of the 1954 Geneva conference and all other interested parties. The communiqué followed anticipated lines in calling for cessation of hostilities in Cambodia forthwith and withdrawal of all foreign forces, respect for Cambodia's sovereignty and neutrality, and reactivation of the International Control Commission.

A suggestion by the Thai foreign minister that the conference form its own observer team to investigate and report on developments in threatened countries such as Cambodia was unacceptable to most conference participants.

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South Vietnam: Many Communist units are planning to step up military activity over the next few weeks.

A brief surge of enemy action is anticipated around 19 May, which this year coincides with the birthday of both Buddha and Ho Chi Minh. The Communists can be expected to take advantage of the 24-hour allied cease-fire to move closer to target areas. Rocket and mortar attacks as well as some terrorist activity in the larger cities are likely.

Reports also indicate that the Communists are apparently aiming for a more intense period of action towards the end of May. This surge would be similar to past enemy "highpoints." The brunt of these attacks will probably come in the I and IV corps.

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On the political front, progovernment Buddhists are threatening to disband their organization as a means of gaining greater government support in their dispute with the rival antiregime faction.

25X1 the progovernment Quoc Tu leadership has concluded that the government has offered them too little support in the wake of the recent seizure of their headquarters by the An Quang militants and its subsequent recovery by force of arms. As a result, the Quoc Tu claims it will turn its national pagoda over to the government, disband its organizational structure, and return its leading monks to their local pagodas.

The Quoc Tu hierarchy is particularly disturbed by the continued presence of a number of An Quang monks on its pagoda grounds and by its inability to oust them. The government has refused to remove the monks and has cautioned the Quoc Tu leaders not to use force against them.

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By threatening to disband, the Quoc Tu probably hopes it can force the government to resolve the problem in its favor. Additionally, they may believe the government would be loath to allow the Quoc Tu--which is the official, regime-sanctioned Buddhist church of South Vietnam--to disband, leaving the militantly antigovernment An Quang sect practically unchallenged to influence the country's largely Buddhist population. The government can ill afford to lose the allegiance of any proregime organization, even such an ineffectual one as the Quoc Tu Buddhists, at a time when the government is under fire from a wide variety of opposition elements.

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Dominican Republic: President Balaguer's sweeping re-election victory makes it unlikely that he will face any significant challenge in the near future.

Nearly complete returns indicate that Balaguer received about 56 percent of the total vote, trouncing his closest competitor, Vice-President Lora, by about 350,000 votes in the five-man race. Balaguer ran well throughout the country, even amassing a surprising plurality in the capital, where he was badly beaten in 1966. Balaguer nearly duplicated his percentage of four years ago, when he defeated leftist Juan Bosch in a two-man race.

The peaceful balloting was in marked contrast to the upsurge of violence that closed out the final week of campaigning. The Communists, probably sobered by the heavy military patrols, made no major effort to disrupt the voting.

The total vote, about 1.2 million, was below the estimated turnout of 1.5 million. Juan Bosch's major opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), which abstained, will probably compare the results with the figure of 1.8 million eligible voters to suggest its continued strength. Although the PRD's abstention certainly helped the President, his strong showing in Santo Domingo, combined with the fact that this election did not attract the voter interest of 1966, undercuts such a stand.

Between now and the inauguration on 16 August, Balaguer may bring some opposition figures into the government, as he has done in the past, and further isolate the PRD. Balaguer's popular mandate, added to his already strong military support, makes it unlikely that the left will have much success should it try to oust him. The center and right, as evidenced by the voting, are generally satisfied with the President's performance.

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Cuba: Fidel Castro is continuing to make a major issue of the recent kidnaping of Cuban fishermen.

According to press reports, widespread anti-US demonstrations demanding the return of the fishermen--who reportedly were captured by a Miami-based exile group, Alpha 66--began on Wednesday and continued into the weekend. Protests have centered on the Swiss diplomatic residences, which represent US interests. The Castro regime has given its official blessing to the demonstrations with an editorial in the government newspaper, Granma, warning that protests "will grow further while the fishermen are held" and that authorities will not "spill blood to protect imperialist interests."

Castro has accused the US of complicity in the kidnaping and has stated that he holds the US responsible for the lives of the fishermen. His reaction to his first kidnaping problem demonstrates his concern over the vulnerability of the extensive Cuban fishing fleet to exile attacks. It may also serve as an opportune diversion from the 1970 sugar harvest, which will not meet his goal.

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Norway: The government, which has had difficulty in resisting recent attacks by the opposition Labor Party on several issues, will face yet another test on 21 May.

At that time the government will have to explain to parliament, where it has a two-vote majority, what it has done in response to a unanimous resolution that it work in NATO and bilaterally to end arms supplies to Greece. The principal embarrassment for the Center-Right government is that one of the coalition parties, the Liberals, has voted by a two-thirds majority for the immediate expulsion of Greece from NATO, even though there is no NATO provision for such action. Although this resolution is not binding on Liberal members of parliament, their position will be made no easier by the fact that the opposition Labor Party intends to introduce the verbatim text of the Liberal resolution in parliament.

Coalition members are trying urgently to find some kind of compromise proposal that will satisfy all concerned. In any case, they have at their disposal a number of procedural devices, such as referring the resolution to committee. The US Embassy in Oslo thinks it probable, nevertheless, that parliament will give the government some sterner guidelines for bringing pressure on the Greek regime in NATO and elsewhere.

The burden of speaking for the government will fall on Foreign Minister Lyng, who earlier had attempted to postpone the debate beyond NATO's ministerial meeting on 26-27 May. The performance will be Lyng's swan song; he retires the following day. His successor is expected to be Sven Stray, who has been Conservative Party parliamentary leader. He is pro-NATO and pro-US.

Lyng's departure will set off a series of personnel changes in the government. Most of these will stem from an effort by some coalition parties to reinvigorate their leaderships.

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Laos: Communist units continue to deploy for additional attacks in the Bolovens Plateau area. Villagers report that fresh enemy troops have moved near Lao Ngam and Souvannakhili off the western edge of the plateau. In the north, Communist troops drove Meo guerrillas from positions a few miles north of Sam Thong in the first significant counter-attack in weeks. The enemy is now within rocket range of Long Tieng again. [REDACTED]

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Congo (Kinshasa) - USSR: The expulsion of four Soviet Embassy personnel, described as "influential diplomats," has been publicized in the Kinshasa press with charges that the Soviets were propagandizing students and operating an extensive espionage network. It has not been confirmed so far that the four are among the seven Soviets with official diplomatic status, and Kinshasa authorities may be moving primarily to reduce the large embassy staff. On the other hand, press accounts may be exaggerating the trespasses for domestic political purposes. The first congress of President Mobutu's official party since its formation in 1967 is convening this week, and a keynote of vigilance against foreign subversion may set the stage for a tightening of party discipline or a shakeup of government personnel. [REDACTED]

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Chile: Strains within President Frei's Christian Democratic Party (PDC) resurfaced during the election of new leadership in the Chamber of Deputies last week. Presidential candidate Radomiro Tomic refused to permit PDC legislators to strike a deal with conservative groups that would have set up a combined PDC-Radical leadership as President Frei desired. Instead, the new leaders are a leftist Radical, a Communist, and a Socialist. Tomic may hope that by refusing to cooperate with conservatives he has put himself in a stronger position to get leftist congressional votes if no presidential candidate gets a majority in the September election. In such a case, Congress must make the final choice between the top two, and Tomic now believes he has a good chance of running second in the popular election to the conservative candidate, Jorge Alessandri.

[REDACTED]

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Antigua: The current politically inspired workers' strike could expand into a serious test for the administration. Premier Bird, who has dominated the island's politics for two decades, faces what will probably be a close election this year and has taken a hard line against the strikers. His opponents, with growing labor support, have gradually escalated what was a minor civil service dispute into a more widespread walkout. If the government-labor impasse continues, a general strike could develop. Antigua was the site of labor violence in 1968 that prompted the British to send warships to the area; the country has only a 350-man defense force.

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